

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RYAN A. COSTELLO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 4, 2017

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, on July 26, 2017, I missed ten recorded votes on the House floor due to family commitments. Had I been present, I would have voted NO on Roll Call 416, NO on Roll Call 417, NO on Roll Call 418, NO on Roll Call 419, NO on Roll Call 420, NO on Roll Call 421, NO on Roll Call 422, NO on Roll Call 423, NO on Roll Call 424, and YEA on Roll Call 425.

JOHN MILLER RETIRES FROM THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

HON. PAUL COOK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 4, 2017

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding career of John Miller, who retired from his position as the U.S. Forest Service Public Affairs Officer for the San Bernardino National Forest on July 31, 2017.

My office has had the pleasure of working with John over the past four and a half years. On numerous occasions, John demonstrated a willingness to go above and beyond to serve my constituents and forest visitors. He has repeatedly shown his dedication to the Forest Service's mission and has been instrumental in balancing multiple and sometimes competing uses of the most heavily urbanized forest in the nation.

In addition to his work as a Public Affairs Officer, John was the Public Information Officer for a Federal Interagency Management Team, and served on the U.S. Forest Service Honor Guard. John is a true professional in every sense of the word, and I wish him the best of luck as he embarks on a new chapter in his life.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 4, 2017

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast my vote for Roll Call votes 416 and 417 on July 26, 2017, and Roll Call votes 426 through 433 on July 27, 2017. Had I been present, my votes would have been the following: Aye on Roll Call votes 430, 431, 432, 433, and Nay on Roll call votes 416, 417, 426, 427, 428, and 429.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF U.S. ARMY SERGEANT JONATHON MICHAEL HUNTER

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 4, 2017

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of U.S. Army Ser-

geant Jonathon Michael Hunter, who was killed in the line of duty on Wednesday, August 2, 2017, in Afghanistan.

Jonathon graduated from Columbus East High School in 2011 and went on to study music at Indiana State University on an ROTC scholarship. After a year at Indiana State, Jonathon returned home to work and decided to follow his family's military tradition by joining the U.S. Army on April 8, 2014. Jonathon was in the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division stationed at Fort Bragg, North Carolina and was deployed to Afghanistan on July 1, 2017. He earned his Expert Infantryman Badge and was recently promoted to sergeant.

Jonathon is survived by his wife, Whitney Michelle Hunter, and parents, Mark Hunter, Kimberly Thompson and step-father Brian Thompson, to whom I extend my deepest sympathies.

On behalf of all Hoosiers, I thank Sergeant Hunter for his service and sacrifice to our nation. He represented his community, state, and country, with honor and dignity. We continue to pray for his family, friends, and all who knew Jonathon. Our hearts are with you. His service and sacrifice will always be remembered.

HONORING SHEILA REINHOLD AND RICHARD SACKS

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 4, 2017

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor two individuals who have become pillars of the Riverdale community. As active members Conservative Synagogue Adath Israel of Riverdale, Sheila Reinhold and Richard Sacks have helped CSAIR grow by leaps and bounds for over 20 years. It's no wonder why CSAIR has chosen to honor them with the Hazon Award at this year's Spring Gala.

Sheila and Richard moved to Riverdale in 1991 with their children Eli, Rachel and Deborah. They took different paths to CSAIR involvement. Sheila grew up in Manhattan in a Modern Orthodox home with Holocaust survivor parents from Belgium. A natural violinist, at age 15 she went to Los Angeles to study with world-famous violinist Jascha Heifetz, with whom she worked—and had all her Seders—for five years while living with a non-Jewish host family. She then moved to Cambridge and was a Resident Musician at Harvard, where she had the opportunities to reimmerse herself in Judaism, and where she met Richard whose Jewish trajectory had been rather different.

Richard grew up in Albany in a secular family, never had a bar mitzvah ceremony, and never attended a Shabbat service from the age of 14 through graduate school—even when he and Sheila were dating, though he used to walk her to Shabbat services. They were married in 1977, and moved to NYC in 1978 when Richard finished his PhD and began teaching at Columbia, where he specializes in ancient myth and literature. He also regularly teaches Columbia's core great books course for first-year students, and it was this course that gave him his first experience of the joys of teaching biblical texts. Couple that

with Sheila and all three children loving both CSAIR and talking Torah, and Richard's fate was sealed.

At CSAIR, their shared passion has been the quiet mitzvah of helping with shiva needs and logistics. They both have served on various committees as well. Sheila frequently plays violin at CSAIR's Yom Hashoah observance, and she has brought her performing career to CSAIR as founder and music director of Intimate Voices. Richard served a term as CSAIR's Treasurer and loves giving divrei Torah. CSAIR is fortunate to have two such devoted members. Congratulations to them on this great honor.

THE CONSTITUTION TRUMPS THE PRESIDENT

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 4, 2017

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2017, with his right hand placed on the historic Lincoln Bible, Donald Trump uttered the most important sentence of his life: "I do solemnly swear that I will faithfully execute the office of President of the United States and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States."

These 35 words—spoken verbatim by every U.S. President at their inauguration—have achieved a hallowed status in our nation's collective memory and psyche.

These 35 words have immense symbolic meaning, but they also possess real power.

They are enshrined in Article II, Section I of the U.S. Constitution, the blueprint for our democratic system of government and the founding document upon which our society is built.

They bind their speaker in an oath to uphold the Chief Office of the Executive Branch of the United States.

These 35 words state, in the starkest of terms, the two fundamental duties of the President: to "take care that the laws be faithfully executed" and to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution.

Before January 20, 2017, every President, from George Washington to Barack Obama, had served in elected office or the military, held a government position, or been a member of the bar prior to entering the Oval Office.

Before January 20, 2017, Donald Trump had never been elected to public office, nor served in the military, nor held a position in the government, nor been admitted to practice law before the bar.

This is noteworthy because it means that in his 70 years of living, Donald Trump had never taken a public oath to uphold the Constitution before January 20, 2017.

During his campaign, Trump often touted his lack of political experience as a strength.

Since January 20, however, it has become increasingly obvious that Trump's career as a real estate mogul, television personality, and owner of the Miss Universe beauty pageant has left him wholly unequipped to grasp the full weight, scope, meaning of—and the obligations he assumed in taking—the Presidential Oath of Office.